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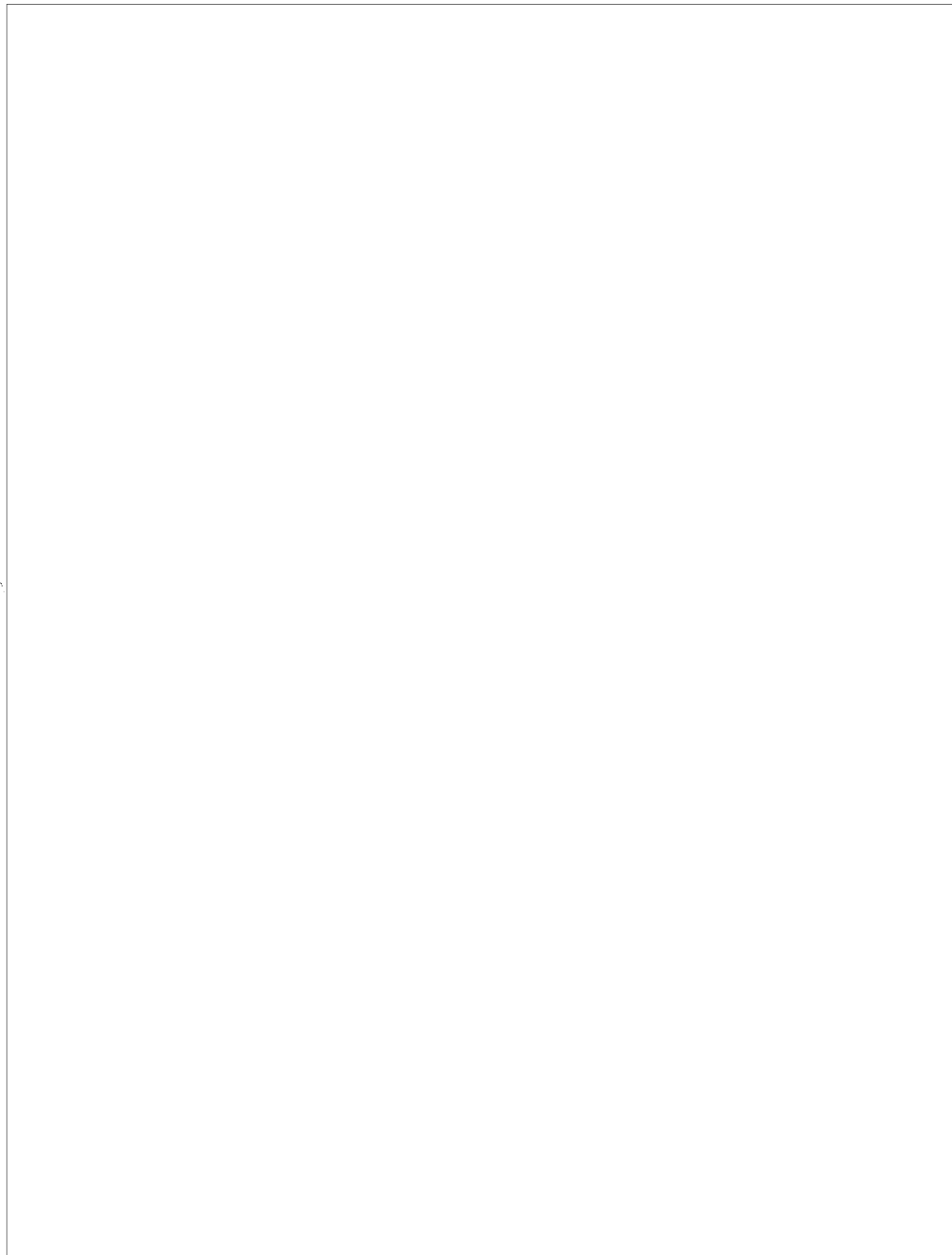
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COUNTRY : USSR

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SUBJECT : MILITARY NEWS: "A Unified System of Planning Combat  
Training in a Military District", by Guards  
Lieutenant-General of Tank Troops M. Vaynrub



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

"A Unified System of Planning Combat  
Training in a Military District"

(From experience)

By


Guards Lieutenant-General of Tank Troops M. Vaynreb

The Chief Directorate of Military Training of the Ground Troops worked out recommendations in 1956 for the planning of the training process in large units, units, and subunits and established sample forms of planning documents. According to these recommendations and forms, combat and political training in a division and regiment is planned twice a year (for the winter and summer periods) and in the battalion (batalon, divizion) it is planned for each month.

Such an order on the whole justifies itself. On the other hand, the forms and contents of planning documents do not wholly reflect the participation of commanders, their deputies, chiefs of services and staff officers that direct the training of subunits and units. For this reason, commanders and staffs at all levels are forced to look for ways which would permit the attainment of plans made up in advance.

With this aim in view, some work out so-called detailed plans for ten days, others work out calendar-plans for a month, still others make up various charts or extracts from the plan with appropriate alterations and additions. Moreover in each case the number of these documents, their form and contents are different. As a result, combat training measures being carried out at various levels are uncoordinated as regards place and time and are usually communicated to the units, and especially so in the case of companies (batteries), by separate orders and instructions.

All this leads to disorganization in the work, disrupts the planning of the training of personnel and the sequence of completing the programs. Staff officers, as well as company (battery) and platoon commanders do not have the opportunity to plan their working day efficiently, to prepare themselves qualitatively for the next exercise and to improve their military and political <sup>50X1-HUM</sup>



knowledge. Besides, with such planning, senior commanders and especially the chiefs of arms of troops and services, in essence withdraw from the direct training and education of the personnel of units and subunits, which has a negative effect on the quality of combat training and political instruction as well as on the strengthening of military discipline.

In order to establish a smooth rhythm in military training and regulate the officers' working day, we in the Kiev Military District in 1960, established a single planning order at all levels, from division down to company (battery). All measures for the training and education of personnel envisaged in the divisional and regimental calendar-plan for the period of training, are amplified monthly. For this purpose a monthly calendar-plan of measures concerning combat and political training is worked out in the division, regiment, and battalion (batalon, divizion). The following plans are compiled in the form of appendices to the divisional and regimental plans: party-political work, technical support of combat training, material support of combat training, a timetable for use of training grounds, firing ranges, tank parks, target ranges and other installations, and guard duty and garrison duty schedules for the units.

To the plan of a battalion (batalon, divizion) are added a weekly topical plan of combat and political training, a party-political work plan, and a timetable of utilization of training grounds, sports grounds, classrooms, target ranges and other installations.

In the company and battery a schedule is made up for the week's exercises and a calendar-plan for mass-political work.

The monthly calendar-plan is worked out on the basis of the calendar-plan compiled for the training period and changes made by senior commanders, bearing in mind the actual situation and the mode of life of the troops. This is the basic document according to which the direction of combat and political training is carried out. In form, all these calendar-plans are practically identical. They usually include: the specification of the measures; who carries them out; who is to take part in them; location where it will be carried out; materiel-technical support; day

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and dates of month, as well as subsections; training of officers; training of headquarters personnel; training of NCO's; training of troops, courses, meetings, conferences and preparation of the training base.

The calendar-plan is worked out with the participation of the command echelon chiefs of arms of troops and services, of a division and regiment, and in the battalion (batalon, divizion) -- the commanding officer, his deputies and chief of staff.

The calendar-plan first of all shows the measures of senior commanders, then of the commanders, their deputies, staff officers, political workers, chiefs of arms of troops and services, to be carried out in units and subunits during working hours. Measures to be carried out by junior commanders and staffs are not included in the plans of the senior commanders.

Neither does the calendar-plan include questions concerning the education of personnel and materiel-technical support. These are fully reflected in the party-political work plan and in the monthly work plans of the appropriate chiefs of arms of troops and services. This permits the making up of a specific, clear-cut, short and easy-to-use calendar-plan and to avoid overloading it.

Measures for combat and political training envisaged for the following month should conform strictly to the level of preparedness of units and subunits and program requirements. For this reason, the commanders, staff officers, political workers, chiefs of arms of troops and services of a division, regiment, battalion (batalon, divizion), before compiling the calendar-plan, must determine the level of training of the personnel and the quality of execution of the program by each unit and subunit during the current month, as well as to clarify the missions which are to be fulfilled.

Experience shows that the mere presence of senior commanders at courses and exercises is not sufficient. It is essential to carry out planned and controlled drills with the subunits, and this is what we do.

For instance, in the large units commanded by Major-General G.I. Semenko and Colonel U.F. Drozdov, large-scale use is made of all the command personnel of the division, regiments, battalions.

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(batalon, divizion), chiefs of arms of troops and services and officer-specialists for the carrying out of planned and controlled drills and training with the subunits. For this purpose, special provisions are made in the calendar-plan for combat and political training measures for the following month, with the mention of dates, hours, and subjects of such planned and controlled drills.

It should be stressed that the large-scale use of the above-mentioned categories of officers for carrying out exercises improves the quality of training and education of personnel and gives a chance to unburden, to a certain extent, the commanding officers of companies (batteries) and platoons.

Written orders are issued in the divisions and regiments, which clearly define: fixed times at which planning documents are to be ready, the dates, hour and order of coordinating envisaged measures and the time of their implementation; the days and hours for summing up combat and political training; the order of compiling personal plans by officers and NCO's and the time limits for their preparation.

The working out of a calendar-plan for combat and political training for the following month and all its appendices is usually completed: in a division - on the 22nd or 23rd, in a regiment - on the 24th or 25th, in a battalion (batalon, divizion) - on the 26th or 27th of the current month. The clarification of the new and the coordination of the previously envisaged measures, according to the place and time of their implementation, are usually completed in the above-mentioned formations as follows: in a division with regiments and special subunits - on the 22nd or 23rd of the current month, and in the battalions (batalon, divizion) with companies (batteries) - weekly, every Thursday, during the last two hours of the officers' working day.

The proposed time limits for working out planning documents and for coordinating measures between all levels are most rational, because they ensure the timely transmission of the measures of the senior commanders to the executors. Commanding officers of companies (batteries) having the necessary data can start making up the training schedule for the following week on Friday morning and on Saturday carry out command or instruction-method drills with the NCO's.

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Some commanding officers of divisions and regiments carry out official conferences with all the commanding personnel of the units and subunits in order to coordinate the measures and inform them. In our view such conferences in divisions and regiments are not expedient, because this means that a great number of officers are taken away from combat and political training for considerable periods of time - up to two hours. Besides, the majority of units are stationed in separate garrisons located far from each other, and it is not easy to assemble all the officers.

In our opinion, the coordination of measures between divisions and regiments, and when possible between regiments and battalions (batalon, divizion), must not be carried out during conferences with the commanding personnel, but in the course of routine duties, and definitely on specific days and hours. As for commanding officers of battalions (batalon, divizion), it is better for them to resolve this question with commanding officers of companies (batteries) at an official conference.

It is known that usually with each company (battery) many measures are planned for combat and political training which are carried out by the officers of the battalion (batalon, divizion), regiment, and division. In order to coordinate thoroughly the measures of the senior commanders with their own, to determine the days, hours, and the sequence of their implementation, it is essential that all company (battery) and independent platoon commanders of a battalion (batalon, divizion) be present at the conference. It is only in these subunits, directly in the training schedule, that the time for carrying out each exercise can be clearly determined. The necessity for such a conference in a battalion (batalon, divizion) is also explained by the fact that the implementation of a number of measures for the training and education of personnel is directly connected with the use of the training-materiel base at the battalion, regimental, and sometimes the divisional level.

The order of preparing a commanding officer of a battalion (batalon, divizion) for a conference and methods of coordination may vary. The following sequence of work has given good results in the district troops.

The commanding officer of a battalion (batalon, divizion) clarifies at regimental headquarters, when, in which subunits and what military and political training measures will be carried

out by senior commanders; questions of materiel-technical support; the breakdown of hours for the subjects studied; the schedule for the use of training facilities; the dates on which subunits, officers, and NCO's are on garrison or guard duty, as well as other questions to be resolved during the following week. After this, together with the deputies and the chief of staff, he maps out his own measures for the training and education of officers, NCO's, and enlisted men, and the time for their implementation. After this, usually on Thursday, during the last hours of the officers' working day, he holds a conference with the commanding officers of companies (batteries) and commanders of independent platoons, at which he instructs them in the planning and organization of combat and political training for the following week. These instructions determine the breakdown of hours for subjects to be studied during the week, who of the senior commanders of the division, regiment, battalion (batalon, divizion) will carry out the training with officers, NCO's and enlisted men; the materiel-technical support of the drills; which new study questions and subjects should be included; who in the battalion (batalon, divizion) will organize the preparation of officers for regular drills and where; the number and subject matter of method-instruction and demonstration drills with NCO's; the allocation of training objectives and dates when subunits, officers and NCO's are on garrison and guard duties. The deputy battalion commander for political matters indicates the subjects, subject matter, and time limits for carrying out political instruction.

Having received these instructions, company (troop) commanders implement a methodical sequence for preparing the subject matter, divide the subject into separate drills and determine the training questions of each drill as well as the dates, number of hours, where they are to be held, and materiel-technical support; which drill, firing, physical, and special training should be carried out prior to the tactical exercises; which subjects should be planned and completed within the complex of tactical training; which drills should be planned and conducted at night; the subject matter of political instruction, marksmanship, and other training; dates and hours for carrying out command, demonstration and method-instruction training with the NCO's; who will prepare NCO's for future exercises. On the basis of the above, subunit commanders compile a training schedule.



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On the day on which the commanding officers of companies (batteries) make up their schedules, chiefs of arms of troops and services of the regiment and division coordinate with them the dates and hours for carrying out drills with the personnel on special subjects. At the same time they assist the commanding officers of companies (batteries) in determining training questions, and materiel-technical support, and in the choice of training aids required for these drills.

A slightly different method of coordinating time and place for carrying out drills with subunits is practiced in the large unit commanded by Colonel Pokalchuk. Here, the chiefs of arms of troops and services of the regiment, and if possible also those of the division, are present at the conference held by the commanding officer of the battalion with commanding officers of companies (batteries) on the planning for the following week. Moreover, questions dealing with their carrying out future drills are dealt with simultaneously with all commanding officers of companies (batteries).

In our view such a method of coordination somewhat limits the initiative of a commanding officer of a battalion. Besides, it is not always possible to carry it out.

When making up the schedule, the commanding officers of companies (batteries) set up the training by subject being studied, by day and hour in such a way that all the personnel would get a full load and every minute of training time would be used in the interests of improving combat readiness.

The work load of platoon commanders should be determined very thoroughly. It is desirable that they should be busy with the personnel for several hours at a stretch. If interruptions are unavoidable, it is better to plan them for a duration of at least two hours.

Having made up the schedule, commanding officers of companies (batteries), together with the deputy battalion (batalon, divizion) commander for political matters, and commanders of special subunits, together with the deputy commander of the regiment work out the calendar-plan for mass-political work for the week. On the basis of tasks being carried out by the personnel, this calendar-plan provides for: self-preparation for political drills, study

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in the technical training group, Komsomol meetings, instruction by platoon Komsomol group organizers and agitators, conferences of the company (battery) aktiv, evening question and answer sessions, summing-up results of socialist competition, preparation of artistic amateur talent activities, sports contests, discussions on books, watching television and a variety of other interesting measures. Senior officers and political workers who instruct officers of subunits in the skilful organization of mass political work take part in these activities.

When the training schedule is approved, company (battery) commanders arrange a conference on Friday during the last hour of the officers' working day with the participation of the deputy company (battery) commander, platoon commanders, the NCO's, the group party organizer and the secretary of the Komsomol organization. Here the commanding officers of companies (batteries) sum up the work of each one of them for the past week; set tasks by date and hour for the next week in accordance with the training schedule; indicate the time and place of their preparation for future exercises, as well as the method and time for the training of NCO's; who checks the fulfilling of the daily schedule by the personnel, and when; who enters on duty where, and so forth. The company (battery) master-sergeant is told about the preparation and materiel-technical support, what is to be provided by their forces, what is to be obtained and where, and to whom and when it is to be issued.

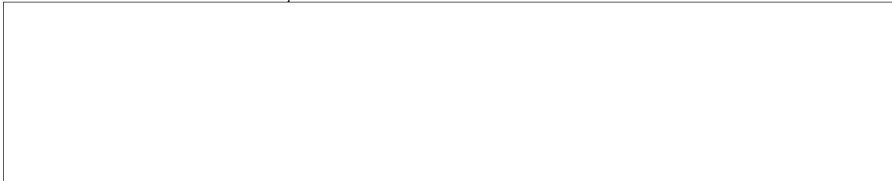
With the group party organizer and secretary of the Komsomol organization the commanding officers of companies (batteries) map out measures for carrying out tasks of combat and political training and education of the personnel.

On the basis of instructions received and the training schedule, platoon commanders and NCO's prepare their own plans on Saturday.

Experience shows that such planning of military and political training permits:

- first, a higher quality of planning combat and political training by commanders and staffs at all levels for a month, by the week, by days and hours, without tolerating the overloading of plans, their frequent alteration and disruption, in other words, attaining stability and precise execution;

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- secondly, an even load distribution, by direct conduct of drills with the command personnel, staff officers, political workers, chiefs of arms of troops and services at all levels, and subunit commanders, and on the basis of this, raise the quality of troop training and education, improve the direction of military training of units and subunits;
  - thirdly, to organize the officers' working day, especially of the commanding officers of platoons and companies (batteries), giving them more time for improving their military, political, and technical knowledge, for qualitative training for future drills, for cultural development and the upbringing of their children.

On the whole there is an improvement in the quality of work of commanders, staffs, and political organs at all levels, which permits, to a significant extent, the improvement of combat and political training and the combat readiness of the troops.

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